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Reply to: Orlando

March 14, 2002

## DEFENDANTS ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTE MARIHUANA AND COCAINE

Orlando, Florida - United States Attomey Mac Cauely announced today an indictment returned by a Grand Jury sitting in Orlando became unsealed upon the execution of arrest warrants. Early this morning, Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigations, the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force, Orlando District Office set in motion the arrests of Orlando residents EDUARDO PEREZ, age 37, a/k/a "Limo Eddie", NICANDRO UCIFFERRI, age 35, DAVID JONES, age 59, a/k/a "The Old Man", EDUARDO RIVERO, age 45, and YOLANDA FARAH LLANES, age 63, of Miami. Arrests were effected in Orlando and Miami and as of mid-morning 2 defendants, UCIFFERRI and RIVERO, remained at large.

JORGE FARAH of San Diego, California, age 42, a/k/a George Farah a/ka Vincent Rutheford a/k/a James Lee Walker a/k/a Alexander Cortez a/k/a Victor Hugo a/k/a Victor Deisenman a/k/a "Rico" a/k/a "Auggie" EDUARDO SAID CENTENO, of Orlando, age 45, a/k/a "Fish" had been taken into custody on January 29, 2002, in Orlando, as a result of an undercover operation carried out by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and DEA Tampa.

**HUGO GOMEZ**, was arrested today in California, pursuant to a criminal complaint issued on March 11, 2002.

The Indictment and complaint charge the defendants with conspiracy to import multi-kilogram quantities of marihuana and cocaine from South America and Mexico for distribution in the Central Florida area. Money laundering charges were also filed against JORGE FARAH and YOLANDA FARAH LLANES.

This case was investigated by DEA, IRS Criminal Division, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigations, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Custom's Service.

Mr. Cauley commended the investigators by stating, "The arrests this morning culminated the first stage of a multi-agency investigation into disrupting and dismantling the activities of this organization. The joint efforts of federal, state and local agencies from Orlando and Tampa should be applauded for their tremendous team effort."

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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